

# **EAST COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**

## **Meeting of December 1, 2010**

Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center  
3300 Briggs Chaney Road  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20904

### **MEMBERS (ECCAB)**

**Present:** Marva Deskins, Esq. (Chair); David M. Kochanski, Esq. (Vice Chair); Anthony Ramirez (Secretary); Vanessa E. Ali; Thomas J. Aylward; Kim Bobola; Sally Colgan; G. Stanley Doore; Peter Myo Khin; Allan Mulligan; Leonard E. Newman; Alfreda H. Payne, Ph.D.; Bill Strassberger; Odessa Shannon; Benoy Thomas; Ned B. Williams

**Absent:** Saschane M. Stephenson

**STAFF (EMRSC):** Reemberto Rodriguez (Director, Silver Spring Regional Services Center) and Anjoo Chohda (SEAA), Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center

### **GUESTS:**

Teddy Wu (Resident); Chris Jones (President, BMC Property Group); Kristin O'Connor (Senior Planner, M-NCPPC); Jennifer Wright (Burtonsville Elementary School PTA ); Bruce Adams (Director, Office of Community Partnerships); Karla Silvestre (Latino Liaison, Office of Community Partnerships); Rev. Timothy B. Warner (Community Liaison for the African American Faith Communities, Office of Community Partnerships); Daniel Koroma (Senior Fellow and Liaison to African and Caribbean Communities, Office of Community Partnerships); Wil Gutierrez (Staff, Councilmember Nancy Navarro's office); Mara Parker (Staff, Councilmember Marc Elrich's office); Mark Pharoh (Chair, Eastern County Recreation Advisory Board); Eric G. Luedtke (Delegate Elect, District 14, Montgomery County); Neeta Datt (Offices of Del. Karen Montgomery, District 14, Montgomery County); Rachel Whavers (Resident); Jeanette Der Bedrosian (Gazette Reporter).

### **CITIZEN'S FORUM**

**Chair Marva Deskins** –Welcomed Reemberto Rodriguez, Director, Silver Spring Regional Services Center, and all before presiding over the meeting. The guests were asked to introduce themselves and to share their concerns with the board. The floor was opened for questions.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

**Chair Marva Deskins** –Announced presentations by

- (a) Chris Jones, President, BMC Property
- (b) Office of Community Partnerships - Bruce Adams, Director, Office of Community Partnerships; Karla Silvestre, Liaison, Latino and New Immigrant Communities and Rev. Tim Warner, Liaison, African American and Faith Communities

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **1. Chris Jones, President, BMC Property Group**

Chris Jones, President, BMC Property Group, distributed a copy of the state legislation for support of a pending liquor license law (Local Bill MC 2-11). This legislation is for the purpose of authorizing the Montgomery County Board of License Commissioners by unanimous vote to approve applications for alcoholic beverages licenses for restaurant establishments located in certain shopping centers in Montgomery County (Burtonsville Towne Square and Hillandale Shopping Center) under certain circumstances; specifying that the license authorizes the license holder to keep for sale and sell alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises only; and generally relating to alcoholic beverages licenses in Montgomery County. Mr. Jones asked members of ECCAB to speak with the community and send messages of support of the pending liquor license law to [Dan.Adams@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Dan.Adams@montgomerycountymd.gov).

**Eric Luedtke** (Delegate Elect, District 14, Montgomery County) – also announced that the bill text and information about testifying during the hearing next Monday is on the county delegation website: <http://www.montgomerycountydelegation.com/legislation.html>. The bill regarding the liquor licenses is MC 2-11, the first one listed.

### **2. Bruce Adams, Director, Office of Community Partnerships**

Bruce Adams thanked ECCAB members for the invitation to attend the meeting. He shared with the attendees the role and mission of their department. The Office of Community Partnerships carries on Montgomery County's historic commitment to empower ethnic communities; building strong partnerships between the County government, the County's nonprofit organizations and faith communities.

The mission of the Office of Community Partnerships is to strengthen relationships between government and the residents it serves; with special focus on the underserved and emerging communities and neighbors in need.

OCP Staff, Karla Silvestre (Latino Liaison); Rev. Timothy B. Warner (Community Liaison for the African American Faith Communities); Daniel Koroma (Senior Fellow and Liaison to African and Caribbean Communities) discussed their roles and contributions to the community. OCP is very interested in receiving feedback from the community.

Q & A session followed.

**Chair Deskins**– Thanked the speakers for their presentations.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Deskins asked for a review of the minutes of the ECCAB Meeting of November 3, 2010.

**[December 3, 2010 -1]** Tom Aylward shared minor edits on the minutes. A motion to approve the

December 3, 2010 minutes as amended was offered. The motion was moved by Tom Aylward; seconded by Vanessa Ali and unanimously approved.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Reemberto Rodriguez is attending the meeting on behalf of Joy Nurmi. The Director's Report was emailed by Joy to members and is attached as part of the minutes.

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Announcements by Chair Deskins:

1. Upcoming ECCAB Priorities: A draft will be emailed to members for review and updates.
2. Budget
  - **January 15<sup>th</sup>** the County Executive will present amendments to the Fiscal Year (FY) 12 Capital Improvement Program budget to County Council;
  - **January 20<sup>th</sup>** the County Executive will speak about the Fiscal Year 12 operating budget and hear from residents about their budget priorities at the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center;
  - **March 15<sup>th</sup>** the County Executive announces his recommended FY 12 operating budget; and
  - By **May 30<sup>th</sup>**, the County Council approves the operating budget.
3. The board has a Parliamentary position open.
4. Ad Hoc Committee Report – will be discussed
5. Old Business – Motion on One Laptop per Child letter will be discussed.
6. New Business - Motion on Pedestrian Safety letter of Economic Development and Infrastructure committee will be discussed.

## **COUNCIL REPORTS**

### **Councilmember Mark Elrich's office:**

**Mara Parker:** The \$12.7 million ambulance transport fee ballot question was defeated in the General Election. County Executive Isiah Leggett will propose a mid-year savings plan for the FY 11 operating budget of approximately \$36 million: \$16 million from County government with remaining funds coming from Park and Planning and Montgomery County Public schools. Council action will take place on December 15, 2010.

### **Councilmember Nancy Navarro's office:**

**Wil Gutierrez** – No Report

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee: Tom Aylward, Chair**

The Committee discussed: letters on sidewalk improvements; ZTA that was passed; and Park and Planning's plan for the Burtonsville Commercial area. The committee is coordinating with the

Planning Board. He also mentioned that there was good turnout on November 30<sup>th</sup> at the East County Regional Services Center to hear about the Burtonsville Neighborhood Plan.

**Outreach Committee: Alfreda H. Payne, Chair**

The committee will work on presentation to the community by Department of Police on gangs: working on availability of a venue at the Recreation Center for youth. The committee will present the proposal to the Board Chair and Center Director.

**Services Committee: Anthony Ramirez, Chair**

The Services Committee also discussed gang issues. One Laptop per child was discussed – Motion will be presented at New Business.

**Ad Hoc Committee: Kim Bobola, Allan Mulligan and Tom Aylward**

Kim Bobola – shared a detailed report on ECCAB’s standing committees structure (Economic Development and Infrastructure, Outreach and Services). The purpose is to determine if the right standing committee structure exists and if not, propose a change(s) to better assist the members. (Report attached)

The method used was to examine and compare the standing committees of all five Citizens Advisory Boards and the following proposals were suggested:

**Zoning, Planning, and Infrastructure Committee** handles issues relating to zoning, property, and transportation infrastructure.

**Quality of Life Committee** handles issues related to education, recreation, environment, retail, and neighborhood associations and;

**Services Committee** handles issues related to health, aging, human services, pedestrian safety, public safety, and transportation services.

**Other recommendations:**

1. Set aside time in January, March and April for each standing committee to discuss the budget.
2. Inform the standing committees about “when to do what” regarding the work of the County Council.
3. Expand the Executive Committee to include the past two chairs for the purpose of leadership continuity.
4. Implement the new ECCAB Standing Committee structure when the new term begins (either in April when four new board members will be in place or in September at the start of the annual cycle).

Members were asked to review the report and suggest any changes at the January 2011 meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Chair Deskins** - Stan Doore made a motion at the October meeting to encourage Montgomery County for one laptop per child. The issue was referred to Services Committee for discussion. Services Committee- recommends not to send the letter since it is beyond the scope. The matter will be discussed for a motion and the Board will take a vote.

**Stan Doore** - asked members to support the motion. Members had a detailed discussion on this topic.

**Bill Strassberger** - offered to substitute the motion with the Board writing a letter to Montgomery County Board of Education by encouraging the feasibility of providing a laptop per student.

**Chair Deskins** – offered substitute motion that the Board write a letter to the Montgomery County Board of Education encouraging the BOE to research the feasibility of providing one laptop per child. Bill Strassberger seconded the motion.

**Len Newman** - recommended that laptops cannot be used to alter the education pattern of students. There is a school infrastructure in place and a need to consider the overhead and maintenance costs for laptops.

**Chair Deskins** - called sub-motion.

**[December 1, 2010 -2]** A sub-motion for Board Chair to write a letter to the Montgomery County Board of Education encouraging the BOE to research the feasibility of providing one laptop per child. A vote was conducted by show of hands.

Results: All in favor – 2; all opposed – 7 and abstain – 3. The sub-motion was lost.

**Chair Deskins** - called for the original motion.

**[December 1, 2010 -3]** A motion was made by Stan Doore for Board Chair to write to the County Executive and County Council to support one laptop per child in its public school system. A vote was conducted by show of hands.

Results: All in favor – 2; all opposed – 7 and abstain – 3. The motion failed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Chair Deskins-** Motion of Economic Development and Infrastructure committee.  
Ned Williams - discussed Pedestrian Safety letter.

**[December 1, 2010 -4]** The Committee's proposed letter to the County Executive regarding Pedestrian Safety issues was made available to the Board members. The motion by Allan Mulligan was made to approve the letter; seconded by Kim Bobola and unanimously approved.

**Kim Bobola-** asked to move that the approval of the new standing committee structure be discussed at the January 2011 meeting.

**Chair Deskins** – The board has a Parliamentary position open. Chair Deskins asked for volunteers. Allan Mulligan volunteered.

**[December 1, 2010 -5]** A motion to appoint Allan Mulligan as the new ECCAB Parliamentary was offered. The motion was approved by board members.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Deskins- announced that she attended a seminar on diversity, organized by the Vice Chair, David Kochanski, at his firm, Shulman and Rogers. The seminar was very informative.

## ADJOURNMENT

**Chair Marva Deskins** – made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**[December 1, 2010 -6]** - A motion to adjourn the meeting of December 1<sup>st</sup> 2010 was passed. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

**The next meeting of ECCAB is scheduled for January 5, 2011.**

## ATTACHMENTS:

*Director's Report and Ad-Hoc Committee Report*

## **Director's Report – December 2010**

### **Lighting on Briggs Chaney Road**

As the Board knows, in late October, I received a call from Kisha Kelly, the sister of Julian Kelly, a victim of an assault and robbery attempt on Briggs Chaney Road in August that ultimately led to his death. Ms. Kelly informed me that she intended to hold a candlelight vigil on Briggs Chaney Road for her brother. She also expressed concern about lighting on Briggs Chaney Road, and at the apartment complex where her brother lived.

Briggs Chaney Road did have some streetlights out, so I worked with the County's Department of Transportation (DOT) and BG&E to get the streetlights fixed, and to trim trees around the streetlights. DOT is continuing to work with Clear Channel (it owns all the bus shelters in the County) to get electric service to the two bus shelters on Briggs Chaney. I also worked with the owner of the apartment complex where the victim lived (and where his mother and other sister still live) to restore the non-working lighting there. The Gazette Story is below.

#### ***Silver Spring man's death lights way toward brighter future in Briggs Chaney***

#### **Family of homicide victim mobilizes community support for more streetlamps**

by Jeremy Arias | Staff Writer

A family's dark loss was transformed into a beacon of hope Saturday night in Silver Spring as a group of family and friends gathered at a bus stop in the 14000 block of Castle Boulevard where police say Julian Dionte Kelly, a 27-year-old father of two, was fatally shot by members of a local street gang this summer.

Julian's sister, Kisha Kelly, reached out to community leaders and the county's Department of Transportation to increase lighting along Castle Boulevard in the Briggs Chaney area shortly after her brother died of his injuries in a county hospital Sept. 4. Brighter lights that are replaced on a more consistent basis would likely work to deter crime in the neighborhood, preventing future attacks like the one against her brother Aug. 21, she said.

"It doesn't make sense to me to have a fantastic area back here that no one wants to visit because there's this perception that, after nightfall, it's not a safe place to be," she said. "Anything that's done in the dark, it's going to keep going on back there until it's dragged out into the light."

By Friday night, DOT inspectors, working with streetlight contractors from the Baltimore Gas & Electric Company, had agreed to improve the lights in the area, including trimming trees that have grown over the lights and replacing burned-out bulbs, said DOT spokeswoman Esther Bowring.

"They felt that the main issue was that the foliage was blocking the lighting that was there and things would be fine if the trees were trimmed," she said of the assessment. "From the department's perspective, they want to do what they can to improve the situation. ... These tragedies are things that we take very seriously."

The Kelly family also worked closely with Joy Nurmi, director of the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center, to reach out to apartment complexes along Castle Boulevard to inform them of the importance of adequate lighting for the entire road. Only part of the road is maintained publicly by the county, Nurmi said.

As a result of the outreach, Misti Mitchell, manager of the Ashford at Woodland complex, conducted a lighting audit at the complex. She repaired existing lights and installed replacement lights Monday.

"We've had some issues with winds and rain that have knocked down lights," she said. "Some lights were just burned out, [but] they should be working period; there's no reason they should be out."

The vigil was also an opportunity to keep the community's mind focused on finding and turning in Julian Kelly's fourth and final attacker, 18-year-old Tyshon Lateek Jones, who police believe was responsible for shooting Kelly five times with a .22-caliber pistol during the attack.

As far as police can tell, the attack took place shortly after Julian Kelly departed a bus the night of Aug. 21 and a group of four men approached him and tried to rob him of his backpack. Kelly resisted, and the men beat him, then shot him five times before fleeing the scene, police said.

Detectives believe Jones may be receiving help keeping a low profile, Kisha Kelly said Saturday.

"I hold them accountable at this point for my brother's death for helping Tyshon," she said. "Julian was my brother, and even though the sun still shines each and every day, it's not as bright; even though there's still laughter in the house, it's not as loud."

Julian's mother, Ella Kelly, was also at the vigil, speaking out about the need for the community to cooperate with the police to find Jones and resolve the crime once and for all. Julian Kelly was living with his mother at the time of his death, and she says the house now feels empty without him.

"I miss his laugh most of all," she said. "I don't even know what to say; he was 27 and he wanted everything; he wanted to do everything."

Three arrests have been made so far, including 19-year-old New Carrollton resident Shamire Moore, 23-year-old Briggs Chaney resident Charles Edward Baxter and 14-year-old Khalil Rasheed Fields, who also lives in Briggs Chaney. Police think the men are members of a local street gang called the 38 Mob.

Jones was listed with a last known address on the 100 block of Raphael Court in Martinsburg, W.Va., police said. Anyone with any information regarding either the crime or Jones is asked to call the department's Major Crimes Division at 240-773-5070.

All three of the men arrested so far have been charged with first-degree murder, armed robbery and the use of a handgun in the commission of a felony. Fields was charged as an adult, according to police. The charges outlined against Jones in the warrant for his arrest are the same as those made against the three men who have been arrested.



Anyone who wishes to remain anonymous may call Crime Solvers of Montgomery County toll free at 866-411-TIPS (8477). Crimes Solvers will pay a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information provided to them that leads to an arrest and/or indictment of the persons responsible for the crime.

### **Youth Advisory Committee**

The East County Youth Advisory Council (ECYAC) has been developing its community service project. ECYAC would like to attend an upcoming ECCAB meeting to get to know their adult counterparts. They would like to address the topic of crime and gang issues in East County, and they are interested in having the School Resource Officers from the East County schools attend. Might make for a good pizza party.

### **Third District Police Station**

The mandatory referral for the Third District Police Station is scheduled at the Park and Planning Commission for December 16<sup>th</sup>. I will update the Board on the outcome of the meeting by email.

### **Award-winning Director, Cameraman to Discuss First Mystery Novel at White Oak Library**

Thomas Kaufman, Emmy-award-winning director and cameraman will discuss his first mystery novel, "Drink the Tea," at the White Oak Library, on December 6 at 7 p.m. The library is located at 11701 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring.

The novel earned Kaufman the Private Eye Writers' of America "Best First Private Eye Novel" award. "Publishers Weekly" called the work "a taut, compelling tale."

Willis Gidney is a born liar and rip-off artist, who, with help and guidance from one Captain Shadrack Davies, of the D.C. Police, becomes a private investigator. Now, Gidney is working to find the long-time (25 years) missing daughter of a friend. He finds a woman who may be the girl's mother – but, within hours, she turns up dead. The police accuse Gidney and throw him in jail.

Booklist called the dialogue "clever and often quirky" and said that "fans of private eye novels will love this one." Kaufman lives in Takoma Park and is working on his second novel.

The program is sponsored by the Friends of the Library, White Oak Chapter.

To request ADA program accommodations -- at least five work days in advance -- or to receive more information, call the White Oak Library at 240 773-9565; 301-897-2203 (TTY). For more information and a complete listing of upcoming library programs and events, visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library) or call Ask-a-Librarian, 240-777-0007.

### **County Sponsors Additional Flu Vaccination Clinic December 8**

County health officials will hold an additional seasonal flu vaccination clinic on Wednesday, December 8 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Dennis Avenue Health Center. Residents are urged to protect themselves by getting vaccinated. The clinic will offer FREE vaccinations by appointment only. The Dennis Avenue Health Center is located at 2000 Dennis Avenue in Silver Spring.

To make an online appointment, go to [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/flu](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/flu). Those without Internet access can call 311 to make an appointment.

The 2010-2011 seasonal flu vaccine includes protection against the H1N1 virus, along with influenza A and influenza B strains. Only one vaccination is needed this year—there will not be separate vaccinations for H1N1 and seasonal influenza.

Each year, new flu vaccines are made to protect against the types of influenza expected to cause illness that year. Because the influenza viruses change each year and the body's immune system cannot prevent infections from the changed viruses, it is important to get vaccinated each year.

Injectable (shots) only will be available to adults over 18 years old. Intranasal (FluMist) vaccine will be available for children 2 to 18 years old. FluMist has no preservatives (including thimerasol) and is approved for use in children 2 to 18 years old who are healthy and not pregnant.

## AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT

To: Members of the East County Citizens Advisory Board (ECCAB)

From: Ad Hoc Committee on the Standing Committees' Structure  
Tom Aylward, Allan Mulligan, and Kim Bobola

Date: December 1, 2010

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ECCAB's standing committees are essential in assisting the Board in completing its mission. Their in-depth work can increase the chances of the Board making a difference in the lives of the residents of East County. Given our current economy, it is extremely important that ECCAB has the "right" standing committees in place to: 1) thoroughly vet issues of importance to the residents of East County; 2) forward actionable ideas to the Board for a vote; and 3) craft timely remarks to the County Executive and the County Council.

We were assigned to a special committee to examine the ECCAB standing committees' structure (Economic Development and Infrastructure, Outreach, and Services) to determine if the "right" standing committees' structure exists and, if not, whether a change in the standing committees' structure would better assist board members in responding to the needs of East County. The method used was to examine and compare the standing committees of all five Citizens Advisory Boards (see the attachment).

We learned that, of the five Citizens Advisory Boards, three Citizens Advisory Boards (B-CC, Mid-County, and Up-County) have a *Quality of Life* Committee. These same three boards also have a *Land Use* Committee. The Land Use Committees are called the "Land Use, Zoning, and Transportation" (Mid-County) or the "Land Use and Preservation" (Up-County) Committee. We also learned that two of the Citizens Advisory Boards have a *Transportation* Committee (B-CC) or a "Transportation and Pedestrian Safety" (Silver Spring) Committee. Two boards have a *Budget* Committee. The budget committee for B-CC is an ad hoc committee, and the budget committee for Mid-County is called the "Budget and Capital Projects" Committee. One board (B-CC) has an *Executive* Committee that includes the chair, the co-chair, and the past chair.

As a result of this examination, we concluded that the ECCAB standing committees' structure is confusing, and the responsibilities of the current committees are overlapping. In response, we recommend a new standing committees' structure that is intended to clarify the mission of each standing committee, and to absorb the role of the outreach committee. We propose that the:

**Zoning, Planning, and Infrastructure Committee** handles issues relating to zoning, property, and transportation infrastructure.

**Quality of Life Committee** handles issues related to education, recreation, environment, retail, and neighborhood associations.

**Services Committee** handles issues related to health, aging, human services, pedestrian safety, public safety, and transportation services.

Other recommendations are as follows:

1. Set aside time in January, March, and April for each standing committee to discuss the budget.
2. Inform the standing committees about "when to do what" regarding the work of the County Council.
3. Expand the Executive Committee to include the past 2 chairs for the purpose of leadership continuity.
4. Implement the new ECCAB Standing Committee structure when the new term begins (either in April 2010 when four new Board members will be in place or in September at the start of the annual cycle).

Attachment

Names and Frequency Counts of Standing Committees of Citizens Advisory Boards Countywide						
	Bethesda Chevy Chase	East County	Mid-County	Silver Spring	Up-County	Frequency Counts
<b>Quality of Life</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Land Use</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X Land Use, Zoning, &amp; Transportation</b>		<b>X Land Use &amp; Preservation</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Transportation</b>	<b>X</b>			<b>X Transportation &amp; Pedestrian Safety</b>		<b>2</b>
<b>Budget Committee</b>	<b>Ad Hoc</b>		<b>X Budget &amp; Capital Projects</b>			<b>2</b>
Public Safety	X					1
Executive	X					1
Economic Development & Infrastructure		X				1
Services		X				1
Outreach		X				1
Neighborhoods				X		1
Commercial Economic Development				X		1